


Free Ranger Programs - Alpine & East Side										
All children must be accompanied by an adult										
Alpine		Length	Location	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Alpine Aspects - Discover the survival strategies tundra plants and animals use to live in gale-force winds, driving snow and a severely short summer. Ends 10/9		30 minute talk	Alpine Visitor Center	2 p.m.			2 p.m.			2 p.m.
Daytime Programs - East										
Autumn Bird Walk - Join a ranger in search of fall migrants in an excellent birding area. For all levels of birders. Bring binoculars and a field guide. Ends 10/8		1.5 hour walk	Upper Beaver Meadows				8 a.m.		8 a.m.	8 a.m.
Tyndall Gorge Walk - Explore the breathtaking glacial landscape and lush subalpine forests above Bear Lake on this moderate hike. Ends 9/29		1.5 hour walk	Bear Lake parking lot		1:30 p.m.	9:30 a.m.	1:30 p.m.	9:30 a.m.		
Moraine Park Nature Walk - Discover what lives and grows around Moraine Park Visitor Center. Ends 10/10		1 hour walk	Moraine Park Visitor Center	10 a.m.	10 a.m.	10 a.m.	10 a.m.	10 a.m.	10 a.m.	10 a.m.
Portraits of the Past - Moraine Park was once a thriving community of early-day ranchers, inn-keepers and influential residents. Join a park ranger on this walk for a glimpse into the lives of those who came before us. Meet at the Moraine Park Visitor Center. Ends 10/8		45-60 minute walk	Moraine Park Visitor Center					1:30 p.m.		1:30 p.m.
Bear Necessities - The bear went over the mountain, the bear went over the mountain. ...to see this terrific program. Join a ranger to learn all about black bears. Ends 10/7		20-30 minute talk	Fall River Visitor Center			11 a.m.	11 a.m.		11 a.m.	
Bear Lake Stroll - Enjoy an easy walk around a lovely subalpine lake and learn about the natural and human forces that have shaped this landscape. Ends 10/9		1 hour stroll	Bear Lake parking lot	1:30 p.m.			10 a.m.		1:30 p.m.	10 a.m.
Amazing Beavers - Beavers drastically change their environment, and they have wonderful adaptations to do so. See their work first hand. Ends 9/24		30-40 minute talk	Sprague Lake Picnic Area				2 p.m.		2 p.m.	
Here Come The Beetles - Pine bark beetles are rapidly transforming our forests. Learn what this means for all species who share the park. Ends 9/22		20-30 minute talk	Moraine Park Visitor Center					2:30 p.m.		
Skins and Skulls - Examine the skins, skulls, antlers, teeth and bones of many park mammals. Great program for children.		20-30 minute talk	Beaver Meadows Visitor Center	10 a.m.						10 a.m.
Elk Echoes - Learn about elk adaptations, migration, and mating behavior. Programs held simultaneously at both locations. Ends 10/10	 Sheep Lakes Only	30 minute talk	Sheep Lakes Parking Lot & Moraine Park Visitor Center Amphitheater	6 p.m.	6 p.m.	6 p.m.	6 p.m.	6 p.m.	6 p.m.	6 p.m.
Evening Programs - East										
Beaver Meadows Evening Program Enjoy a wide variety of informative and entertaining programs. Ends 10/15		45 minute talk	Beaver Meadows Visitor Center Auditorium							7 p.m.
Artist Night - September 7 and 14 only							7 p.m.			

Backcountry Camping

Permits are required for all overnight backcountry camping, and reservations are recommended for summer. Camping is allowed only in designated sites and areas. Permits may be obtained at the Beaver Meadows Backcountry Office or Kawuneeche Visitor Center. For further information write to: Backcountry Office, Rocky Mountain National Park, Estes Park, Colorado 80517 or phone (970) 586-1242. The administrative permit fee of \$20 is required for backcountry permits between May 1 and October 31; there is no charge in winter.

Sprague Lake Accessible Backcountry Campsite

Reservations and information are available through the Backcountry Office at (970) 586-1242. This site accommodates 12 campers with a maximum of five wheelchair users at the camp. The administrative permit fee is \$20 from May 1 to October 31.



Scan this with your mobile device to download the Backcountry Camping Guide.





For your safety and the protection of park wildlife, carry in/carry out hard-sided, bear-resistant food storage canisters are required of all backcountry campers parkwide between May 1 and October 31. Canisters may be rented or purchased at outdoor shops in surrounding communities. Pack out all garbage.

This Park Paper

The park newspaper is produced by Rocky Mountain National Park in cooperation with -- and funding provided by -- the Rocky Mountain Nature Association. Printed on recycled paper.



Free Ranger Programs - West Side



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Walks and Hikes		Length	Location	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
The Long and The Short - Visit a research enclosure to learn about beaver, moose, elk and the plants they love. Ends 9/29		1.5 hours, 1 mile walk	Colorado River Trailhead		10:30 a.m.			9:30 a.m.		
Coyote Valley River Walk - Explore the valley ecology and history on this easy walk along the Colorado River. Sundays only in Oct. Ends 10/9		1 hour 1 mile walk	Coyote Valley Trailhead	10:00 a.m.			10:00 a.m.			2:00 p.m.
Skins and Things - Examine the skins, skulls, antlers, teeth and bones of many park mammals. Weekends only in October. Ends 10/9		40 minutes	Kawuneeche Visitor Center	3:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.
Rocky Mountain Heritage Walk - Learn about the human history of the Kawuneeche Valley while strolling to the grounds of an historic guest ranch. Ends 9/27		1 hour plus time to explore 1 mile walk	Holzwarth Historic Site Parking Area			2:00 p.m.				
Tundra To Trees - Hike an ancient Ute trail from alpine heights down through old-growth forest. Plan to carpool for this moderate hike. Bring warm clothing, rain gear, water and snacks. Ends 9/30		4 hours 4 miles	Milner Pass Parking Area						9:00 a.m.	
Beyond The Falls - Join a ranger for a stroll to Adams Falls and a spectacular view just beyond. One mile round trip. Saturdays only in October. Ends 10/8		1.5 hours 1 mile	East Inlet Trailhead	2:00 p.m.		9:30 a.m.		2:00 p.m.		9:30 a.m.
Evening Programs - West										
Timber Creek Campground Evening Program - Check at the campground or Kawuneeche Visitor Center for topics. Ends 9/24		1 hour presentation	Timber Creek Campground Amphitheater						7:45 p.m.	7:45 p.m.
Saturday Night in the Park - Enjoy an evening program in the auditorium. For topics, inquire at the Kawuneeche Visitor Center.		1 hour presentation	Kawuneeche Visitor Center Auditorium							7 p.m. 9/10 & 10/8
Special Programs										
Behind The Scenes - Join a ranger to view and discuss a series of short videos documenting how the park addresses challenges like elk management, pine beetles, air quality, and bears. Ends 9/30		1 hour presentation	Kawuneeche Visitor Center Auditorium		2:00 p.m.		2:00 p.m.		2:00 p.m.	

Elk Day, Holzwarth Historic Site Picnic Area
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Saturday, September 17 only



Learn all about these bugling beauties in a special day of elk activities. Rangers will be on hand from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Holzwarth Historic Site picnic area with fun family activities to share. Please drop in! Program will move to the Kawuneeche Visitor Center if inclement weather occurs.

Resources and More Tell Me More About the Fences

Research has shown that the elk herd in Rocky Mountain National Park and the Estes Valley, is larger, less migratory and more concentrated than it would be under natural conditions. As a result, willow and aspen stands were declining, depriving other wildlife of the important habitat they need. Fences are one of the many tools the park is using in the implementation of the Elk and Vegetation Management Plan.

Each fall since 2008, the park has installed enclosure fences on elk winter range in the Moraine Park, Beaver Meadows, and Horseshoe Park areas. These enclosures are protecting important riparian willow and aspen habitat from elk browsing.



Elk enclosure fence

Family-Friendly Trails

Tight on time? Try one of these short walks in Rocky Mountain National Park. Some are accessible. Some allow strollers. All have educational brochures or signs. Pets are not permitted on any park trails.

On the West Side



Coyote Valley Trail

Lulu City/Colorado River Trail



Holzwarth Historic Site

On the East Side



Sprague Lake

Moraine Park Museum Nature Trail



Lily Lake



Bear Lake Nature Trail (partially accessible)



Alluvial Fan



Forest Canyon Overlook Trail



Tundra Communities Trail at Rock Cut